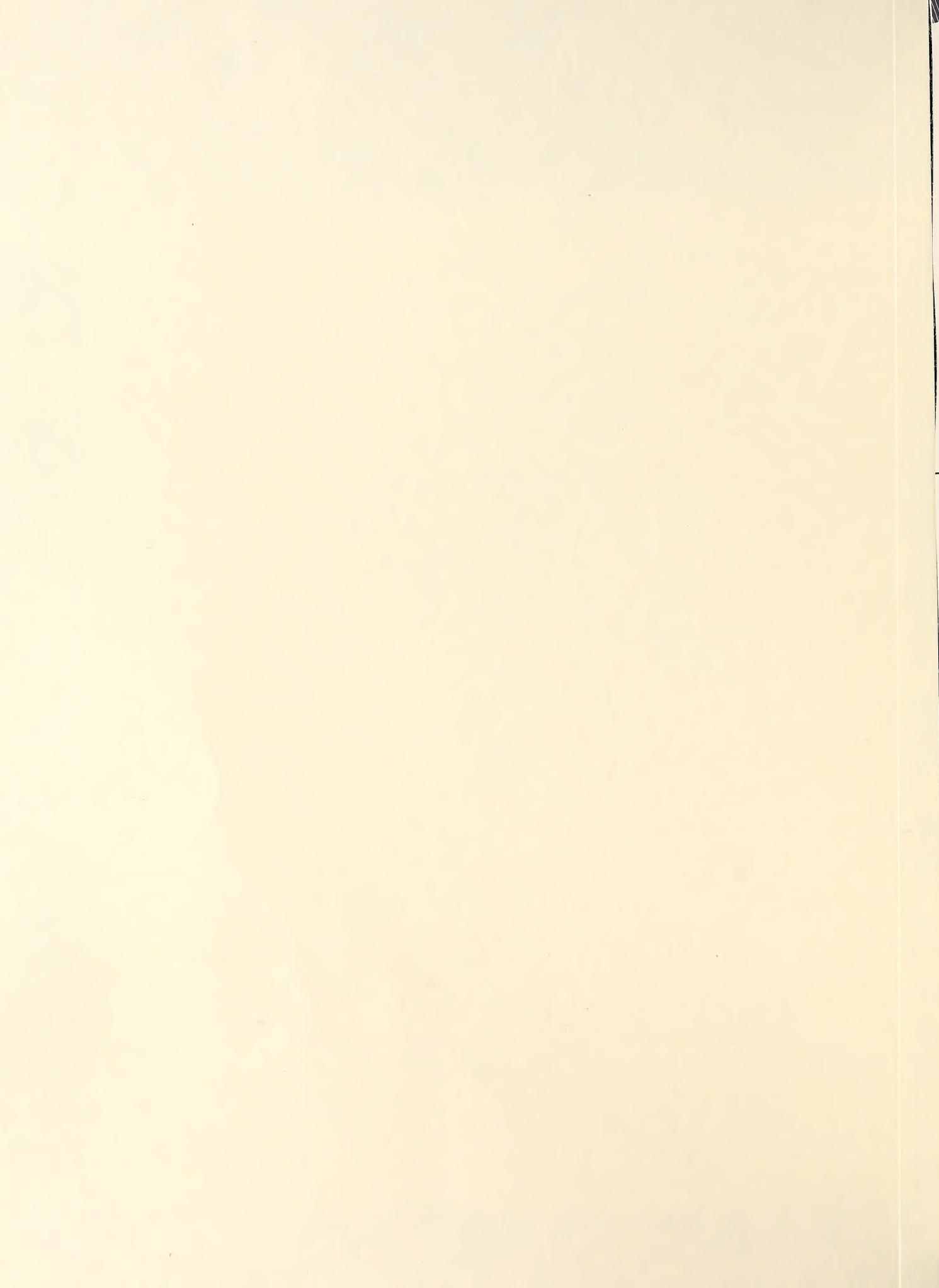


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NBC

FARM AND HOME HOUR

ADVERTISER

UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS #406

WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE

WMAQ BLUE

OK

CHICAGO OUTLET
11:30-12:30 PM

OCTOBER 4, 1940

FRIDAY

(TIME) (DATE) (DAY)

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

1. ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers

2. MUSIC: Ranger Song

3. ANNOUNCER: In a tribute to the importance of grass, John J. Ingalls,
4. United States Senator from Kansas, who died some years ago,
5. once said:

6. "Grass is the forgiveness of nature -- her constant
7. benediction. Sown by winds and by wandering birds, and propagated by the
8. subtle horticulture of the elements, it softens the rude outlines of the
9. world. It invades the solitude of deserts, climbs the inaccessible slopes
10. and pinnacles of mountains, and modifies the history, character and
11. destiny of nations. Should the harvest of grass fail for a single year,
12. famine would depopulate the world."....This is what Senator Ingalls said
13. about grass and although most of us probably never thought about it in
14. this way, what he says is undoubtedly true. Yet in spite of the vital
15. importance of grass to our everyday existence here is an interesting fact.
16. Never before in the history of any nation, prior to the establishment of
17. our national forests under the Forest Service in the Department of
18. Agriculture, had a government force taken up the study of grassland
19. management in a large-scale constructive way. And never before had
20. controls been put into effect to protect the grass and forage cover on
21. public lands. Very little had been done on private lands. To the Forest
22. Service, management of the vast open ranges under their jurisdiction was
23. a new science and a new field of adventure.

24.

25.

1, ANNOUNCER CONTINUED:

2, That was less than thirty-five years ago, and as a
3, testimonial to what the Forest Service has done since that time, every
4, civilized nation in the world has sent its experts and scientists to the
5, United States in recent years to study the methods of range management the
6, Forest Service has evolved.

7, Well, now let's get out to the Pine Cone National Forest. As
8, we look in on Ranger Jim Robbins and his assistant ranger Jerry Quick
9, today we find them in the office of the Pine Cone Ranger Station reading
10, the morning mail. Here they are....

11, JIM: U-m-m-m. More trouble.

12, JERRY: Huh?

13, JIM: Another letter from old man Hemis, Jerry.

14, JERRY: Goodnight Jim, why doesn't somebody take that crotchety old
15, cow hand out and sit on him? He kicks up more trouble than
16, all the rest of our grazing permittees combined....What's
17, bitin' him now?

18, JIM: Seems like he's a little peeved about that new forest
19, boundary drift fence we put up over there next to his land this
20, summer, Jerry. (CHUCKLES) Listen to this. Old as he is he
21, hasn't lost any of his spunk yet. He says here: "If you don't
22, get that stretch of barbwire from off my pasture I'll have the
23, law on you. Maybe you say letting my cattle graze on
24, Government land is trespassing but I have a right on this land
25, and will stay with it. Anybody says I am stealing grass is a
liar and no gentleman." (CHUCKLES) How's that?

2. JERRY: Jim, isn't there some way we can make old man Bemis see....

3. JIM: No Jerry, Uncle Billy Bemis is one of these old timers that as long as he feels like he's right never says die. Uncle Billy's been fightin' the Forest Service ever since the Pine Cone National Forest was first established and I reckon he'll keep right on fightin' it 'till he dies.

7. JERRY: I know Jim but....

8. JIM: Sure, Jerry. The old man's wrong and we're right. We've got to have law and order on the range, just like anywhere else.

10. But that doesn't change Uncle Billy's views any. And when you get right down to it he really has got some reason to believe he's right. Old man Bemis came out here when he was a young man and homesteaded in this country long before the Pine Cone National Forest was ever even thought of.

14. He fought off the Indians and made this country safe for settlers. In a way he feels all this country is his by right of conquest and that's what makes him so darnation mad. When Teddy Roosevelt put these public domain lands that Uncle Billy refers to as "My Lands" into the national forest and the Forest Service stepped in and started applying grazing regulations and range management methods, Uncle Billy just naturally went up in smoke.

21. SOUND: DOOR OPENS

22. BESS: (COMING ON) Oh Jim, have you heard about old Mr. Bemis?

23. JIM: Well, I just got another one of those letters of his takin' the hide off us again, Bess.

25. BESS: You did? Well, I guess it's the last letter from him you'll ever get, Jim.

1, JERRY: Why Mrs. Robbins? What's happened?

2, BESS: Elmira Baker just told me that Uncle Billy died in his sleep last night, Jerry...If you got a letter from him this morning Jim, writing it must have been one of the last things he did.

3, JIM: By George, Bess. Are you sure it's true?

4, BESS: Yes, Jim. Elmira's quite a gossip, but in things like this you can generally depend on what she says.

5, JIM: It's hard to believe, even so, Bess. Bill Bemis finally come to the end of the trial...By George, I can hardly believe it's so.

6, JERRY: It is kinda hard to imagine the old man passing out of the picture, isn't it. But just because he's dead it's no sign the fight's all over.

7, BESS: What do you mean, Jerry?

8, JERRY: Well, there's Bud Bemis, Uncle Billy's grandson, Mrs. Robbins. All the ranch property will be turned over to him and he's just like the old man as far as the Forest Service is concerned. He'll keep on fighting us just like old man Bemis brought him up to do.

9, BESS: Yes, I suppose so. Uncle Billy had a lot to do with Bud's bringing up after Bud's father was thrown off his horse and killed.

10, JERRY: Sure, and we might just as well figure....

11,

1. JIM: Well sir, comin' from me it might sound funny, but I'm mighty sorry old Bill Benis is gone. Old as he was, I believe he died just a little ahead of his time. I always figured he wanted to make a peace with me and sooner or later he would, but after fighting us so long, he didn't just know how to go about it.

2. JERRY: Aw Jim, that hardheaded old prairie dog never would have gone around. He was just plain...

3. JIM: No Jerry... .That old Indian fighter's caused me more trouble in the last twenty-five years than any man's ever got a right to expect, but you've got him sized up all wrong. The old man just believed he had certain rights and he stuck to 'em no matter who or what happened along. He was on the wrong side of the fence, but somehow or other I was never able to think of him as anything else than a grand old man. Yessir, it's going to be easier in one way but in another way this country's going to be a lot different now that old Bill's gone.

4. BESS: Did Jim ever tell you about his first encounter with Uncle Billy, Jerry?

5. JERRY: No. What happened Jim? Go on and tell us. I'll bet that was good.

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1. JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, it makes a good story now but it was mighty
2. serious business then. I don't know whether you ever went
3. over the old Forest Service regulations or not, Jerry, but when the
4. National Forests were first established one of the requirements was that
5. national forest grazing permittees had to own a certain amount of
6. cultivated land and water and to produce enough forage on their own lands
7. to carry their stock through the winter. That was partly to protect the
8. legitimate settlers from being over-run by a lot of tramp stockmen who
9. just used the public domain lands as they pleased and didn't own an acre
10. of land of their own. Any ranger was liable to run into plenty of trouble
11. enforcing that rule though....Well, there was Bill Bemis. Bill had a big
12. home ranch all properly staked out all right, but he also had about three
13. hundred more cattle grazing on the national forest than his ranch could
14. provide for in the winter. So it was up to me to count those surplus
15. livestock off the national forest range. I sat down and wrote a letter
16. to Bill tellin' him I'd been delegated this job and advisin' him to have
17. his cattle rounded up on such and such a date at such and such a place
18. so we could get the job done and over with. And that's how all this
19. letter writin' got started. It wasn't two days later 'till I got a
20. sizzling letter back from Bill sayin' he'd have his stock rounded up all
21. right because he'd been figurin' on roundin' 'em up anyhow, but that if I
22. showed up to do any countin' I'd make the trip home in a hearse. And
23. knowin' Bill's reputation, I knew that wasn't any bluff. Believe me, I did
24. plenty of hard thinkin' and for about three days I didn't do much else
25. except practice up with a six-gun.

(MORE)

1. JIM CONTINUED:

2. And than right at the last minute I got to thinkin' and
3. figurin', and by Goerge I just came to the conclusion I wouldn't take any
4. gun along at all. And I've often thought that was one of the wisest
5. decisions I've ever made.....Well on the day before I was to meet Bill
6. I saddled up and started out to the round-up place. It was about an
7. eight hour ride but I figured I'd make it as easy and pleasant as possible
8. and enjoy the scenery along the way, because it might be the last ride I'd
9. have. Well anyway, there he was at the appointed time and place, and
10. (FADING) when I came ridin' up.....

11. SLIGHT PAUSE WITH SOUND OF HORSE IN MOTION FADING IN

12. FADE IN SOUND OF CATTLE BAWLING IN BACKGROUND

13. JIM: Whoa. (SOUND OF HORSE BEING PULLED UP) Howdy, Mr. Bemis.

14. BEMIS (AFTER STRAINED PAUSE) Ranger, didn't you get a letter from me?

15. JIM: Yep. That's why I'm here. Figured I'd be accommodatin'
16. enough to be present for my own killin' anyhow...Say, I reckon
17. if that gun in your hand is as big as the bore looks from here
18. you won't have much trouble finishin' the job. You can see
19. I'm unarmed so there won't be any argument from this end.

20. BEMIS: I told you not to come.

21.

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1. JIM: Yeah, but them kind of orders don't hold water with me, Mr.
2. Bemis. I'm not workin' for you. I'm workin' for the United
3. States government. I was told to come here and count your
4. cattle off the national forest land, and I'm here to do that
5. job...Mr. Bemis, I've got no personal quarrel with you and
6. neither has the government. All we want to do is give a
7. square deal to all the stock permittees and protect the
8. resources on this national forest land.

9. BEMIS: 'Tain't national land. It's my land. Kick that cayuse in
10. the belly and get out....get out and don't ever come back
11. here again.

12. JIM: U-m-m, Nope. I reckon I'll light and stay awhile, Mr.
13. Bemis. This ain't my decision to make, it's yours. If you're
14. gonna shoot go ahead and shoot, or else put away that gun,
15. I didn't come here to fight. I came here to count cattle.
16. VOICE: (ROUGH - COMING UP) Say, I'm just the cook for this layout,
17. but I'm sayin' this ranger is right, Mr. Bemis. He's for the
18. government and I'm for the government, too.
19. JIM: Thanks pardner, but there's no sense in you gettin' yourself
20. mixed up in this....See here, Mr. Bemis, The Forest Service
21. isn't tryin' to run you out of business. We'll give you a
22. permit to run some of your stock on the forest. But you know
23. you've got more cattle here than there is grass to feed 'em.
24. And no matter how you feel, this isn't your land -- it's the
25. land of the people of the United States.

1, BEMIS: Well.....?

2, JIM: Look at it this way. You're raisin' meat and hides here to make food and clothes for the Nation. All right. If you run more cattle on this land than the land can produce forage to feed 'em, those cattle die and the land dies too. You say it's your loss and yours alone, but the Forest Service says it's the loss of the people too. All we want to do is to balance the livestock against the forage-producing capacity of the land. Or in other words, we don't want to use up all the range today. At the same time we're usin' the range we want to make sure there's gonna be plenty of grass for tomorrow.

13, VOICE: That's a good argument and I'm for it. This here ranger's talkin' hoss-sense, Mr. Bemis.

14, BEMIS: All right, Joe.....Have you said your say now, Ranger?

15, JIM: That's all I got to say, Mr. Bemis, except the end of that shootin' iron pointin' toward me ain't gettin' any smaller.

16, BEMIS: All right boys; (CALLS, FADING) we're gonna count cattle.

17, PAUSE

18, JIM: (FADING IN) Yesair, the end of that six-gun looked as big as a sauce-pan and I never knew right up to then what was gonna happen. Bill Bemis was a tough customer all right, but he was always.....

19, BESS: Jim, look who's coming.

20, JIM: Huh?

1. JERRY: By George, it's the Double B station wagon turnin' in at the
2. gate.

3. SOUND OF AUTOMOBILE PULLING UP OUTSIDE

4. BESS: It's young Bud Bemis, Jim! Uncle Billy's grandson!

5. JIM: Sure enough. First time any of that family has ever set foot
6. in the Ranger Station.

7. SOUND OF CAR DOOR SLAMMING

8. JERRY: Look Jim, he's got a six gun in his hand. Jim, you don't
9. suppose....

10. SOUND OF KNOCK ON DOOR.

11. JIM: (CALLS) Come on in, Bud. The door's wide open.

12. SOUND OF DOOR CLOSING.

13. BUD: Hello Mr. Robbins. Good morning, Mrs. Robbins. Say, I
14. reckon it seems mighty strange to you to see me comin' in here,
15. and I feel kinda strange comin' here, too. I wouldn't a come
16. if it hadn't been for my Grandad...

17. JIM: Sit down, Bud. I'm not surprised to see you and there's no
18. reason for you to think you're not welcome here....We heard
19. about Uncle Billy and I want to tell you I'm mighty sorry
20. he's gone. This valley's going to miss him. He was a great
21. old pioneer.

22.

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1, BUD: Mighty decent of you to say that, Mr. Robbins. And in spite
2, of all the trouble he's caused you I reckon if it'd been the
3, other way around Grandad would've said the same thing about you....Kinda
4, looks like he felt the end was comin' cause he called me in last evnin'
5, before he went to bed and talked to me about all this trouble between
6, you and him. Grandad kinda got a kick out of fightin' the Forest Service,
7, I guess, but he figured all the time you were one of the finest men that
8, ever lived....Aw Jim, I'm no good at talkin'. Grandad wanted me to bring
9, this gun over here and give it to you. He said you'd looked at the
10, business end of it long enough to know it, and he wanted you to get
11, acquainted with the friendly end. (CLEARS THROAT) And Jim, I'd feel
12, mighty proud if you and Mrs. Robbins would come to the funeral. (FADING)
13, I sorta think it would make the old man feel good.

14, MUSIC: FINALE

15, ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each Friday on the
16, National Farm and Home Hour as a presentation of the National
17, Broadcasting Company with the cooperation of the United States
18, Forest Service.

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rb/10/1 10:40

